

Iran now feel the combined pressure of the international community to abandon their nuclear ambitions. I am confident in time they will.

Finally, change wrought by war has given old adversaries an opportunity to lay aside their grievances and begin the work of peace. India and Pakistan have agreed to peace talks. Syria has established diplomatic relations with Turkey. In each case, the opportunity to pursue a new course of peace between these historic antagonists is a direct result of the United States determination to oppose international terrorists and the regimes that sponsor them.

This is not to say the war against terrorism has been won. We are far from that. Yasser Arafat continues to cling to the tools of terror, frustrating the latest efforts for peace in the Middle East. In Colombia, a courageous new government fights a stubborn terrorist movement. But with clear-eyed determination we can find solutions to these conflicts as well.

Victory in the war against terrorism is inevitable because of the leadership of our President, because of the perseverance of our people and, most of all, because of the courage and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. Every day they serve the Nation, our service men and women give this Nation their very best. They are not the first, but they are the latest generation to take up and bear arms, to travel from home and loved ones and risk all so we may live in safety, so we may live in peace. They deserve our deep gratitude.

I take one final moment to pay a special thanks to the 101st Airborne which is based in my home State of Tennessee and also in the adjoining State of Kentucky. Under the leadership of MG David Petraeus, a friend, the 101st is doing extraordinary work. You may remember it was the 101st that found and dispatched Uday and Qusay Hussein in Mosul. Since then, the 101st has moved more quickly than any other American unit in training guards and policemen for the new Iraqi civil defense guard.

They have also shown that the Iraqi people have tremendous generosity in their relationships with the United States. They have demonstrated the generosity through their action, through the action of the 101st Airborne, the generosity, the heart displayed by our service men and women in helping Iraq rebuild its infrastructure, rebuild its civic institutions and, even more fundamentally, the pride and hope of the people in Iraq, that pride and hope in the future. Together with the support of the Congress and the American people, the 101st is helping plant the seed of democracy in the heart of the Middle East.

There is yet much to be done, but it must be said that none of these developments was even imaginable 3 years ago. Because of the extraordinary leadership of President Bush and the courage of our men and women in uniform, America is safer. Millions of people

around the world are for the first time free.

Strengthening our homeland security, prosecuting this war on terror, addressing domestic issues such as education and health care and tort reform are just a few of the issues we will address this year. The President's judicial nominees will get the up-or-down vote they deserve. We will not allow a small minority of Senators to thwart our constitutional duty to advise and consent.

Look for action to protect unborn victims of violence, child custody protection, gun liability, bankruptcy, and many other legislative efforts.

We have laid out an ambitious agenda, one worthy of a great nation, one that will require strong, bipartisan work. We will be aggressive. We will fulfill our duty to serve the American people and make our Nation strong.

Some cynics say in a narrowly divided Congress, especially during an election year, that we are doomed to gridlock, that we can accomplish little. I strongly disagree. I believe everyone in this Chamber will do what is right and what is best for the American people and that is to move America forward.

There is much to be done and there is no time to waste. I thank my fellow Senators for their dedication. I look forward to another extraordinary year in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2673, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A conference report to accompany H.R. 2673, making appropriations for agriculture, rural development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2004, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 6 p.m. will be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the appropriations committee or their designees for debate only.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to consume as much time as I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I listened to my colleague, Senator FRIST,

who is the majority leader. I have great respect for him. His call for bipartisanship is certainly welcome. I say to him and to others that those of us who serve in the Senate come here wanting to do good things for our country. We have a passion for good public policy that will advance America's interests.

But I must say, in the past year or so the evidence of bipartisanship is hard to find with respect to the way the White House and the majority in this Senate have dealt with the minority. We would welcome true bipartisanship.

I must also point out, while I think there are areas where we have made progress in this country, there are some very significant issues with which we must deal.

We have the largest budget deficit in history, and, no, it is not because of a war, it is not because of a recession. We had testimony at a hearing yesterday that said the largest part of this deficit is as a result of recurring tax cuts, very large tax cuts, the bulk of which went to the largest income earners in this country. If you earn \$1 million a year, good for you; you are very fortunate. You, also, under this administration's tax plan, get nearly \$100,000 in a tax cut each year as well.

We have a very large and growing Federal budget deficit, the largest in history. The President proposes increased defense spending, increased homeland security spending, and then decreased revenue. I went to a really small school, but mathematics is still the same. One and one equals two. That fiscal policy equals very large budget deficits.

We have a responsibility—all of us, Republicans and Democrats—to our children to put this fiscal policy back on track. This President inherited a large and growing budget surplus. We now have the largest budget deficit in history, and we must fix it.

We have the largest trade deficit in history, and we have to fix that. This administration is negotiating new trade agreements that, incidentally, will once again ship more American jobs overseas. It makes no sense to me for us to do that. We do have a global economy, but we ought not set American workers and American businesses up for competition against those around the world who will work 12-year-olds 12 hours a day for 12 cents an hour and then ship their products to the store shelves in America. That is not fair competition for American workers and American business. That is only about larger profits for multinationals. We need a better trade policy and to reduce those trade deficits as well.

We have many problems, significant problems, we have to address. I welcome bipartisanship. I hope Republicans and Democrats, who seek the same goal, who have the same interests and urges to improve this country, can work together.